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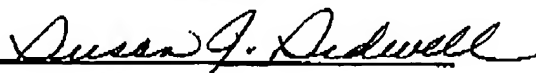
Group Art Unit: 2836

Re: Application No. 10/034,216

See the attached *Comments On Statement Of Reasons For Allowance* in response to the Notice of Allowance mailed January 12, 2004.

I hereby certify that this correspondence is being facsimile transmitted to the Patent and Trademark Office (Fax No. (703) 872-9318) on January 29, 2004.

Susan J. Sidwell



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PATENT**IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE**

Application No.: 10/034,216
Filing Date: December 20, 2001
Applicant(s): Stephen K. Gilbert et al.
Group Art Unit: 2836
Examiner: Zeev Kitov
Title: MICROPROCESSOR-CONTROLLED
DC TO DC CONVERTER WITH FAULT PROTECTION
Attorney Docket: 706146US1

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COMMENTS ON STATEMENT OF REASONS FOR ALLOWANCE

Sir:

Applicants gratefully acknowledge the allowance of Claims 1, 3—8 and 10—14. However, Applicants do wish to note that the Examiner has referred to the fault prevention circuit of independent Claims 1, 8 and 12 using the term "shunting transistor" whereas Claim 1 calls for a "shunting element" and Claim 12 calls for a "current shunt switch." Only independent Claim 8 calls for a shunting transistor, and Applicants believe that the scope of independent Claims 1 and 12 extend beyond use of a transistor as the shunting element (Claim 1) or the current shunt switch (Claim 12).

While Applicants believe that the claims are allowable, Applicants do not

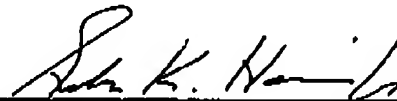
acquiesce that patentability resides in each identified feature or combination of features, exactly as expressed in the claims, or that each feature or combination of features identified is required for patentability, or that equivalents of any of the recited features are outside the scope of the claims. Additionally, to the extent the Reasons For Allowance do not separately address the additional subject matter of remaining Claims 3—7, 10 and 13—14, Applicants do not acquiesce to any inference that these claims do not present patentable subject matter independent of the patentability of Claims 1, 8 and 12.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated:

January 29, 2004

By:



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